


“My region, my Environment”



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



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Committee of the Regions

About our project:

“My region, my environment”

Primary Schools Art Competition

I am happy to introduce you the successful art works of our CoR – EA group art competition which this year has focussed around the theme ‘My Region, My Environment’ and we asked children to express their understanding about environment through art.

Apart from the fact that our art competition supports the children’s creativity in expressing their point of view through art, it also gathers classes in different regions of the European Union to think about significant questions of common interest.

The topic of the art works is environment, the importance of natural and physical surrounding and the role it plays in people’s life.

The results have been impressive, depicting the diversity of landscapes in European regions but also the similarity of the elements considered important by children when speaking about environment.

Irrespectively of country and region, children consider environment an important place to connect with family and friends. It represents for them the ground of the social environment. They have already realised that the quality of life in their communes and towns is dependent on them.

It was also very reassuring to see the children’s awareness on the responsibility to protect their proximate environment.



Dr. Uno Silberg
*President of the European Alliance group
Committee of the Regions*

Our duty now is to shape and influence environmental policy of the European Union in order to assure a clean and sustainable environment for young generations.




With the participating schools


Environment in:

 Mechelen,
Belgium

 Kose-Uuemõisa,
Sinimäe,
Estonia

 Barefield,
Ireland

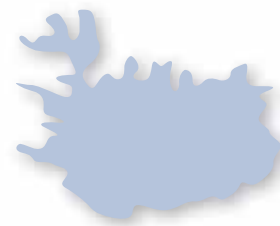
 Šiauliai,
Dembava,
Pagegiai,
Lithuania

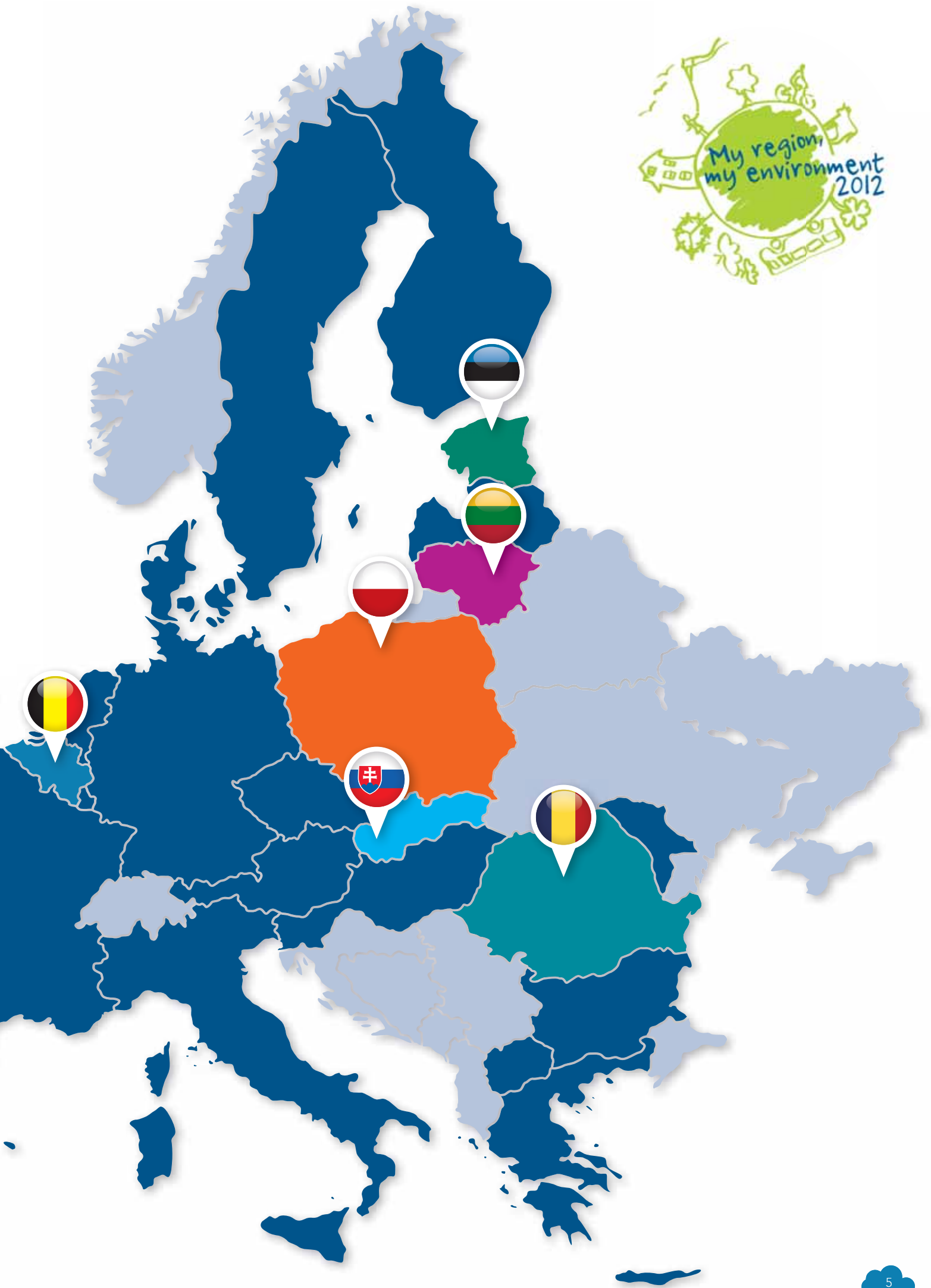
 Oleśnica,
Łubianka,
Wołów,
Gdynia,
Polkowice,
Poland

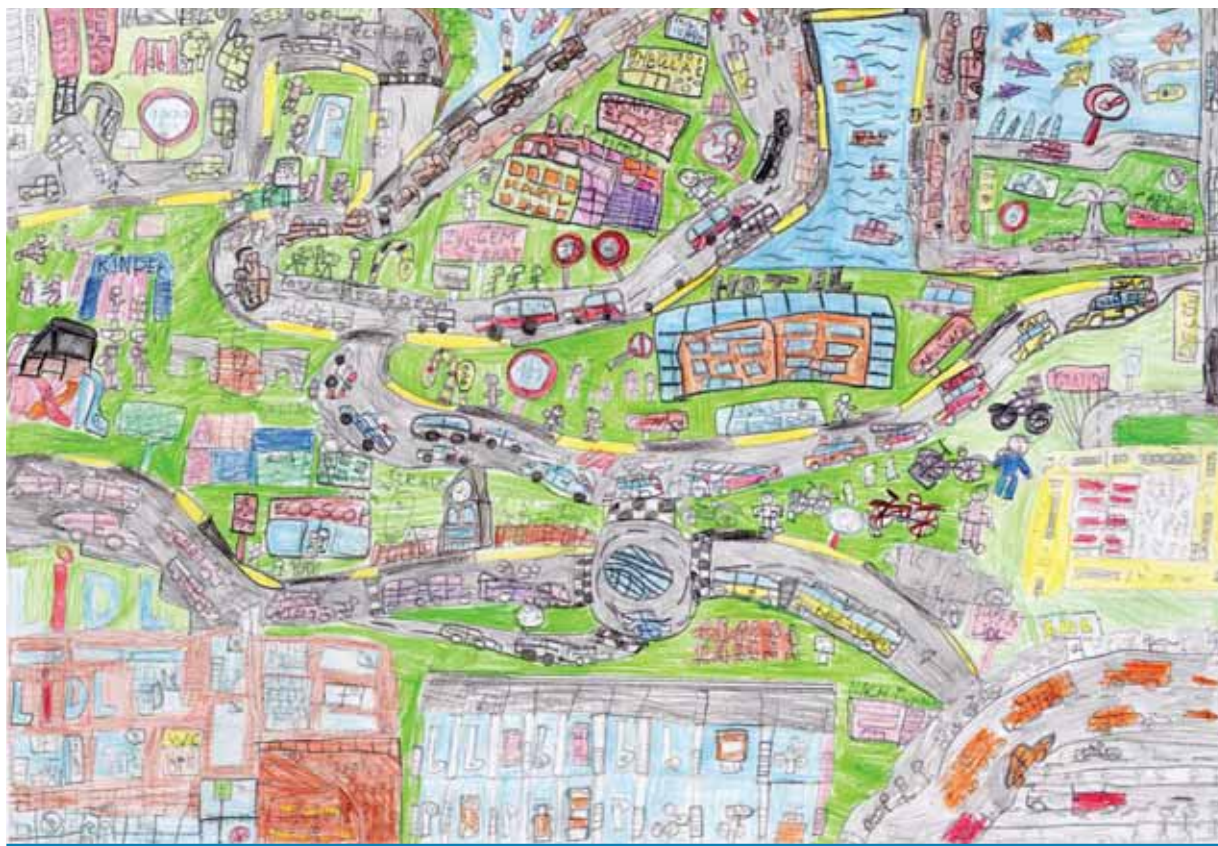
 Vulcana Băi,
Romania

 Prešov,
Slovakia

 Virginia Water Surrey,
Renton, Scotland,
United Kingdom







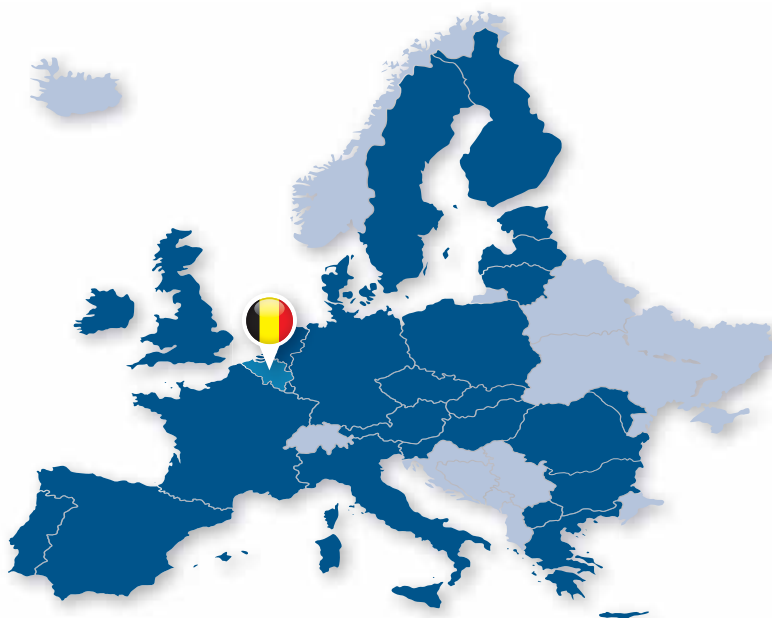
1st Prize:

Ilias Aboulakal (9 years)

"I live in Muizen, which is a village just outside Mechelen. Every day my dad drives me and my brother and sister to school in our town. I dreamed that I was flying to

school in a helicopter and I drew everything I saw. You can see lots of roads, car parks, shops, cars and buses. They are at the supermarkets and at the edge of the town. If

you look closely, you can see a playground and a park as well. It makes sense that you have to hunt for them, because there's not much green space in our town."



2nd Prize:
Narek Somonyan
(8 years)

"I've drawn cars and buses, and lots of people on the street. There are more houses than trees, and there's a fire station, a police station and a hospital too. You can see some grass here and there, but not very much because we live in a town, so it's an urban area. We also have very little space to play in our town, which is a shame – I wish we had more space."



3rd Prize:
Gabriela Jabro
(9 years)

"In our town there's lots of traffic, lots of houses, and factories as well. We don't have much space to go walking or to play outside – it's very dangerous! We can play in the little park, though. The air isn't very clean either, which is a real shame. It is nice that the shops are really close, though, and there are lots of shops in our town! You can also get really good food in the chip shop and all the restaurants. Sometimes we do that with our family. If you look very closely, you can see where I live, and you can even see me lying in my bed!"



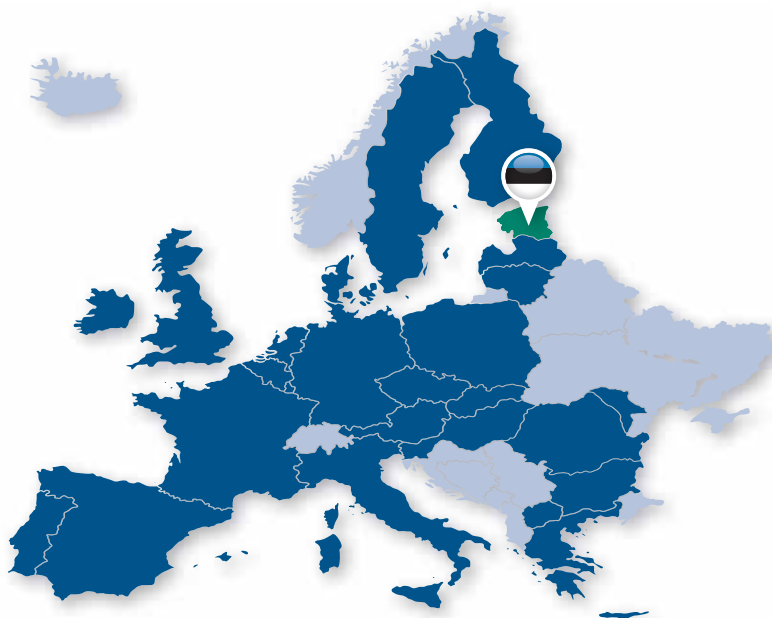
1st Prize:

Marco Pahlk (8 years)

"I live with my mother, father and sister in a little village, called Kose-Uuemõisa. We have a house with a little garden. We have there some vegetables, some apple trees and

berry bushes. We have a greenhouse. I grow there tomatoes and cucumbers. In this year i got a good harvest. In autumn I clean up the greenhouse for the next year, to plant new plants

and get new harvest. I love gardening, and it is nice to get your own berries, tomatoes, cucumbers. It is nice to do something with your own hands. It is healthier and friendlier to the nature."



2nd Prize:
Ketlin Anete Priisalu
(9 years)

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“My favourite season is spring. One day I decided to go for a walk in the forest and take a photo of emerging spring. I like the buds on the twigs. I like when birds return from the south and start singing their spring songs. This time of spring is very beautiful and joyful. I like to walk in the forest, listen to birds and animals. I think everyone should protect and preserve the nature.”



3rd Prize:
Anabel-Carmen Kerner
(10 years)

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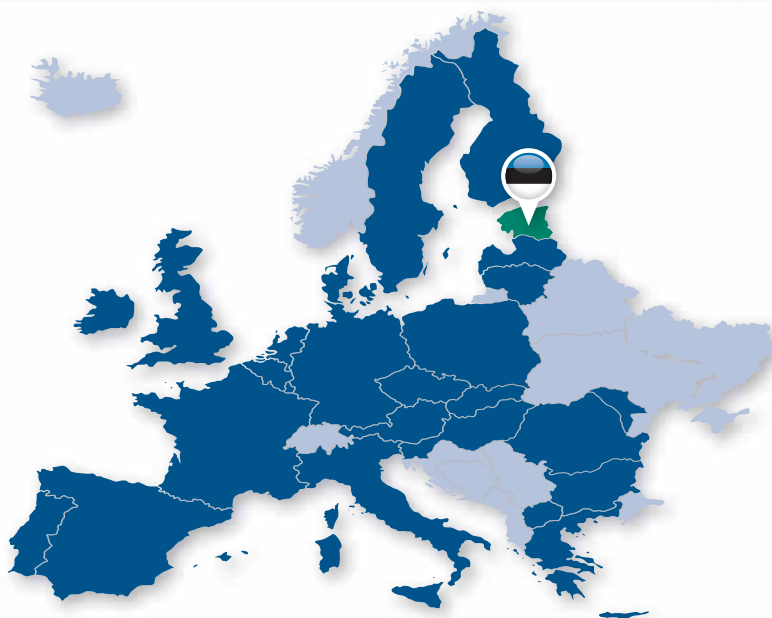
“There is nice manor and park, called Kose-Uuemõisa Manor at my home place. Today there is a school for children with special needs. In autumn children rake leaves, but we also play with leaves. It is funny. There are very interesting pathways where we go walking. Our park and manor are a national heritage. There are a lot of different and unique trees, one special tree is a pancake tree with big leaves like pancakes. I am glad that I have such a beautiful manor and park in my home place.”



1st Prize:
Eliise Koivistoinen
(9 years)

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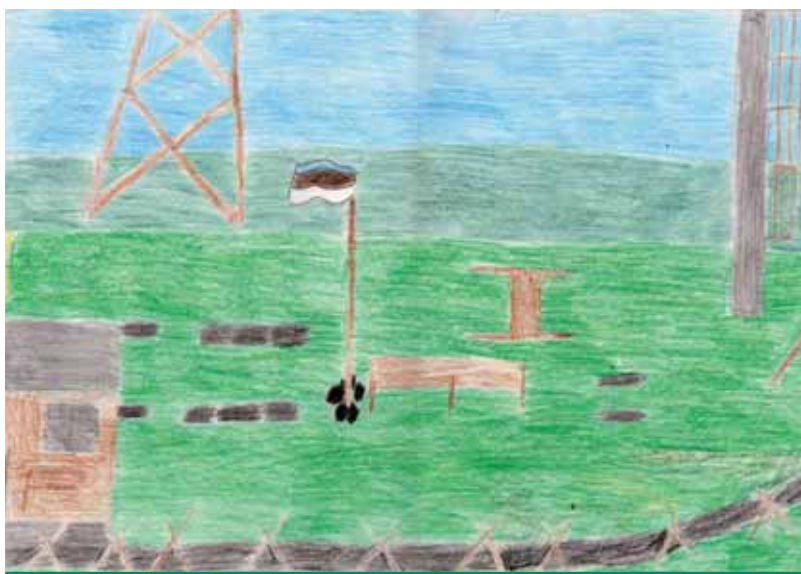
"I study and live in a village Sinimäe. My brother studies in the second class, and I am learning in the third. Our mother also works in Sinimäe primary school. School, school's garden, post office, bus station and even the sea can be seen from the window of my home."



2nd Prize:
Irena Gavrilova
(10 years)

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"I drew the school where I study - Sinimae primary school. The school was destroyed by fire last year of September. We hope with schoolmates to see soon a new school building."



3rd Prize:
Sandro Maksimov
(12 years)

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"Next to my home is my favourite place where the tourists can play paintball and take a military-style cross country ride. Thematic events and local history lectures can be organised. There is possibility to tent and play dodge ball and badminton."



1st prize:

Oisín Leahy (11 years)

"When people throw litter around it ruins the environment. It can make animals sick and makes the area look really bad. I think people should

stop throwing rubbish around and help to pick up rubbish when they can. I like my neighbourhood when it is tidy. I feel very proud. I do my part

for the environment by helping to clean up rubbish so it will not damage the earth."



2nd prize:
Krzysztof Sliva
 (7 and ½ years)

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"We need to protect the sea, fish and other lives in sea. Don't dump oils, plastic, metal into the sea."



3rd prize:
Veronica Frawley
 (8 years)

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I love animals, especially horses. When we litter we damage our animals' homes. It is important to help to protect all animals' environment from pollution. Animals cannot protect their homes from litter on their own. They need our help. It is important not to throw litter on the ground and to help by picking up litter and putting it in the bin if you see some on the ground. This will help to keep the animals' homes clean and keep the animals happy and healthy."





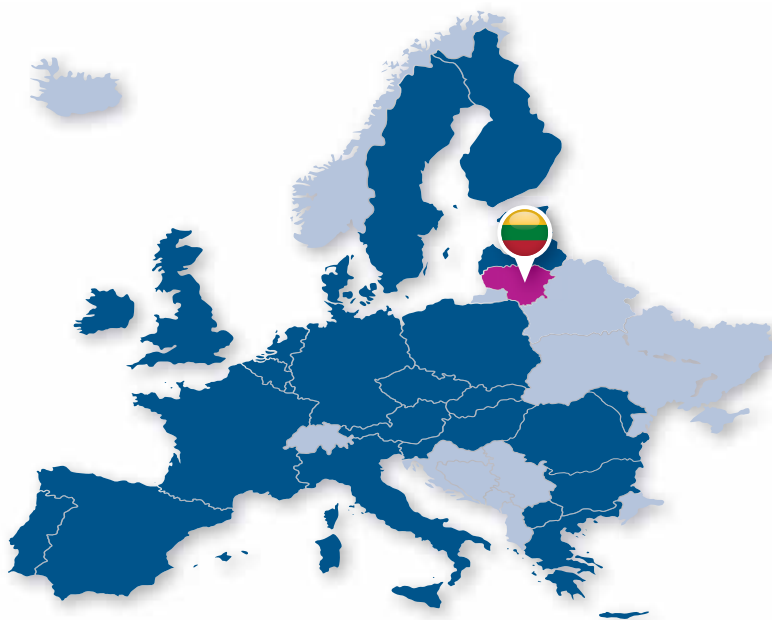
1st Prize:

Beata Sturys (8 years)

“Mother’s Day is celebrated all over the World in different nations. Motherhood means the new beginning, new life, sacrifice and responsibility. Lithuania has set the Mother’s Day on the first Sunday of May every year.

This is the time when nature is waking up and the real spring comes to our country, announcing new circle of life. Motherhood in Lithuania is very important in keeping all family and traditions together. All kids, young

and grown-up honour mothers and grandmothers by giving them flowers, saying thankful words and being together. It is the perfect occasion to let your Mother know how much you love her.”



2nd Prize:
Deividas Bartkus
(12 years)

“Here is the most beautiful festival in Lithuania – Feast of St. John – Midsummer Day. The women are dancing around the fire. The sparkles of the fire make a bloom of a flower. We look for the fern flower at night of this festival.”



3rd Prize:
Emilija Najulyte
(7 years)

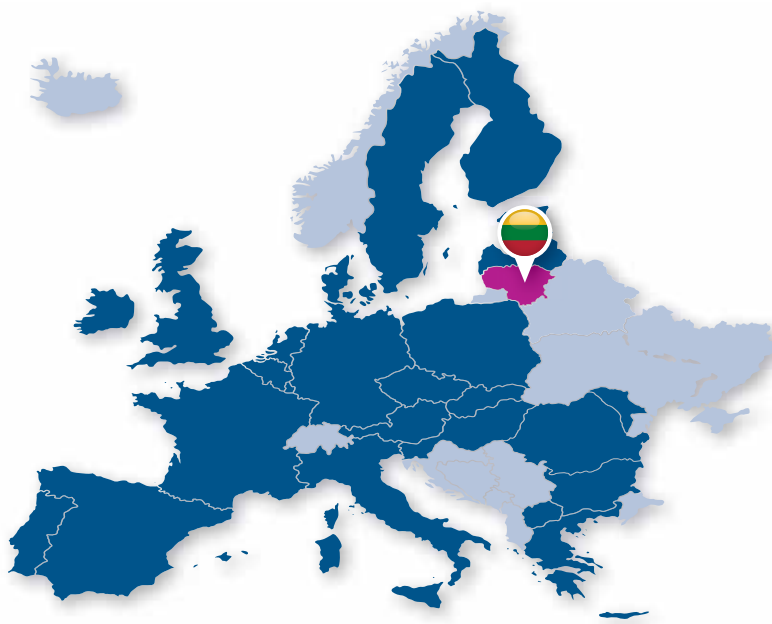
“Environment for me is everything that surrounds me: my country and its people, my friends, parents, school, even the street I live on. But what I like most about my country is its traditions and holidays. The Easter is one of my favourites – early in the morning the Mother Hare hides eggs everywhere and in the morning each child does his best to find as many eggs as possible. Nobody saw how Mother Hare hid the eggs, that’s how I imagine Her.”



1st Prize:

Gabija Sragauskaite (7 years)

"In Pagegių it's bright. There's a lot of sun and green. What I like the most is playing in my yard, watering my flowers."



2nd Prize:
Beatričė Mickute
(9 years)

“I could compare my region with my school. Here live a lot of different kind of people and they have different hobbies: writing, reading, doing sports, singing. I can see a beautiful environment and it makes me happy because it gives life to everyone.”



3rd Prize:
Beatričė Toliušyte
(10 years)

“In my region there’s a lot of water-, rivers and lakes. My family and I are often travelling to the lakes because water gives us relaxation and pleasure.”



1st Prize:

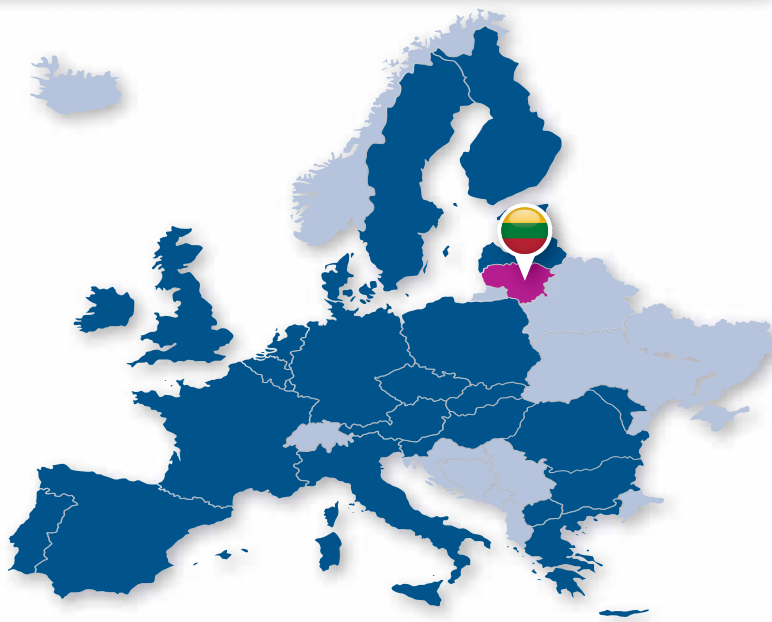
Paulina Paulina Vanagaitė (10 years)

My birthplace is Antasava village in Kupiskis district. There is a small river called Pyvesa. This place is beautiful, especially during summertime. Flower blooms, and the grass smells nicely. In the river there are a lot of fishes and water flowers. Early in the

morning fishermen could be seen quite often.

Air in the village is very nice. Our village people and my family try to keep clean the environment, to collect rubbish, not to wash car in the river, be-

cause we know – any small rubbish makes nature worse. Forest is close to my village. Also there are a lot of trees in my village. In the forest many sorts of mushrooms and berries could be find – and my family likes it. I wish to my village to grow and prosper.



2nd Prize:
Kristupas Lukoševičius
 (8 years)

Lithuania is my country. It is beautiful. In Lithuania there are a lot of rivers, forests and grassland. I like to live here, because a lot of various animals live here too. Early in the morning you hear singing birds. When driving with the car sometimes you see fox or reindeer. I think the nature is so beautiful, because we protect it. We learn it in the school. We have not only nice nature, but our history is important too. We know about this from old buildings. These are castles or mills. One mill is close to my house and flax museum is there. I visited it once and liked it very much.



3rd Prize:
Ugnė Bužinskaitė (8 years)

Nature in Lithuania is beautiful. We are proud, because we have so many forests, lakes, rivers, pine trees with swamps and small islands. In forests there are a lot of protected animals and plants. We need to protect them for us and for our future. Lithuania is famous of its old traditions and hand-craft works. We are proud of old mills, some of them still function and produce flour. It is always good to test fresh baked bread. Lithuania is very beautiful to me. We need to keep it this way for future generations.



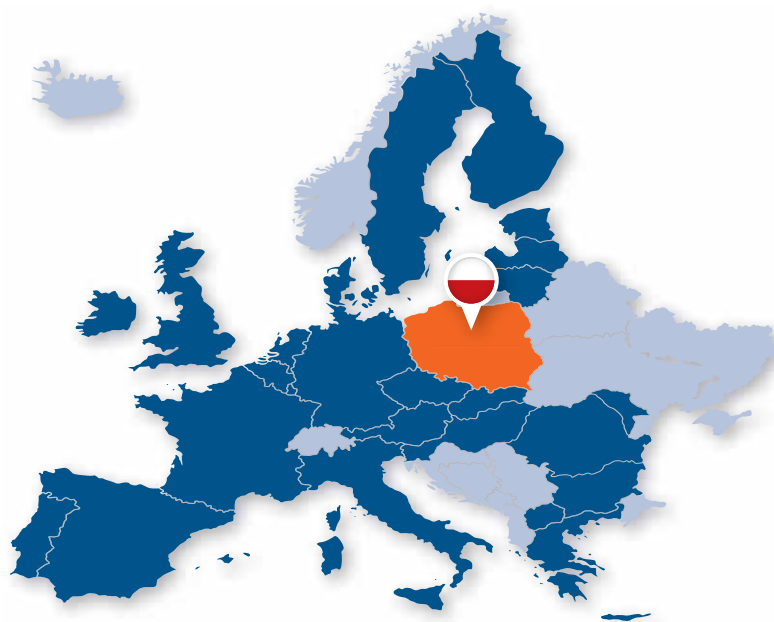
1st Prize:

Julia Parzuchowska (12 years)

"I live in a small town – Polkowice. In my countryside the copper ore is extracted. Due to that many companies have been set up and numerous interesting places and facilities have been created, e.g. a local swimming

pool, a cinema, and playgrounds. That's why I've decided to chose a mine as a main topic of my work. The copper ore is symbolized by a suitable choice of warm colors (coppery). The mine is shown in green color –

despite of an industrial area of mines and smelting works, my town stays a clean and green friendly place, filled with joy and energy."



2nd Prize:
Magdalena Kozina
 (10 years)

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"I like my town very much. Although there is a mine nearby, the countryside reminds green and clean. I especially like our aqua park. We attend there our swimming lessons and go to a saline-iodine cave. We also have a wonderful time sliding down a water chute. On Saturdays I often go with my parents to a bowling alley. Around the swimming pool there is a square with benches, flowers and high trees".



3rd Prize:
Kinga Spigiel (10 years)

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"In my work I'm presenting a beautiful fitness trail. I've chosen it because it's one of the greenest places in my town. I and my parents spend our leisure time there: I ride a bike or go jogging once a week. I also often meet my friends and we do some sports there. Various sport events have taken place there too."



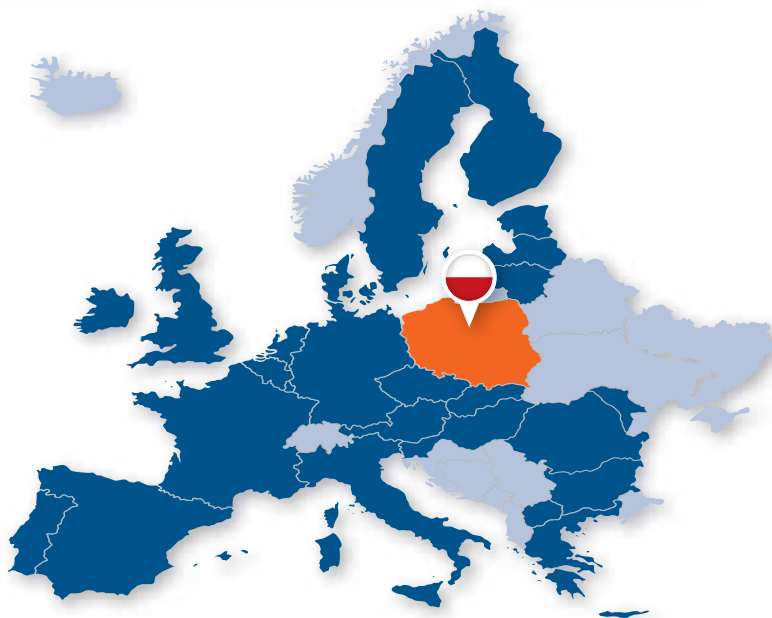
1st Prize:

Oliwia Walichnowska (10 years)

"The area where I live is surrounded by numerous forests, fields and meadows. There are a large number of green areas near my house. So I make sure they are tidy as I want them to be well looked after

and clean. It's important for me to sort the rubbish as it means that lots of old items around the house can be re-used to create new things. Whenever I go for a walk in the woods I always remember to

take my litter home with me. I do it because I want to see a clean and tidy wood when I go there with my family and friends."



2nd Prize:
Barbara Nohr (12 years)

"In my piece I wanted to show a landscape typical of a Polish "golden autumn" in Lower Silesia. This is one of the most beautiful seasons during the year. The leaves on the tree are sparkling with a host of warm colours. There are many fields, meadows, forests and lakes in Lower Silesia where you can often come across wild forest animals. Many farmers live in my area so we are able to have fresh produce in our home. A lot of attention is being focused on protecting the environment in Lower Silesia today. We are happy about this as it means we will be able to live longer in harmony with nature."



3rd Prize:
Jolanta Marchlewska (10 years)

"My area is full of wonderful landscapes. It is surrounded by a large number of forests, fields and meadows. There are also rivers and picturesque streams here as well. Today I know that if I want to keep on admiring all this scenery for as long as possible then it is important for all of us to look after our environment. Together with my family, I remember to look after it every single day e.g. I cycle to school; we grow our own vegetables on our allotment and give away our old things for recycling. If we all take care to do this, we won't have to worry about our nature in the future."



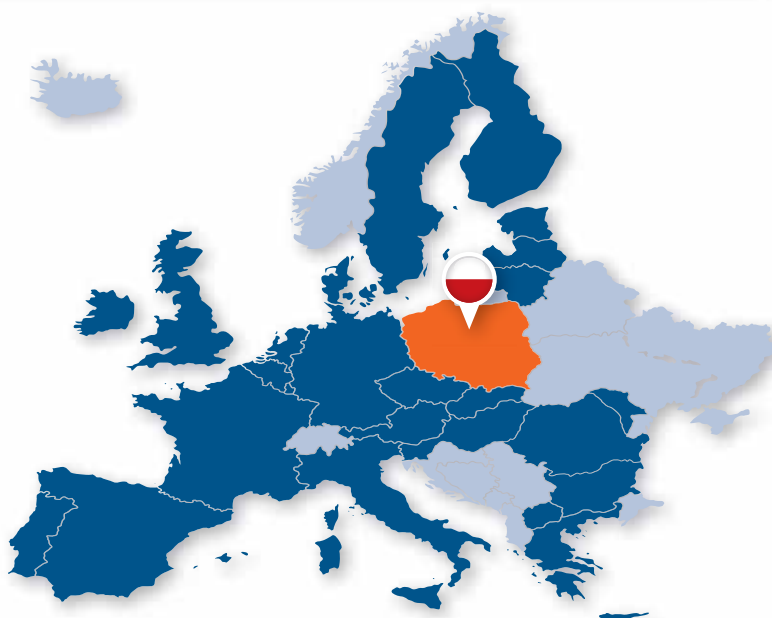
1st Prize:

Julia Kuras (11 years)

"I think the most important issue in my place of residence is the environment. I live in small village and I am fascinated by forests and animals. Unfortunately more and more forests are littered with

rubish and animals die on the streets. In the future I would like to organize meetings concerning the importance of forests around us. I would also vote for higher sanctions against people who litter

the environment and drive too fast as they kill innocent animals. People are wise and strong so they should protect other species that live on our planet."



2nd Prize:
Zofia Głabiak
(9 years)

“My house is situated in a small housing estate far away from road traffic. My garden is full of plants and there is beautiful grass. In front of my house there are two high and slender birch trees which were planted by my dad. I hope they will stay there forever. I really like my house.”



3rd Prize:
Jakub Rogala
(10 years)

“I love in Ole nica. It is a beautiful town situated in Lower Silesia. I really like this place as there are many interesting relicts here. One of them is the Wrocław gate which was built of brick. This gothic building was probably built in XVI. th century. There is a big flower bed in front of the gate. It is one of the four gates that survived from the century. Currently an art gallery is located there. Near the Wrocław gate there is St. John’s evangelist church.”



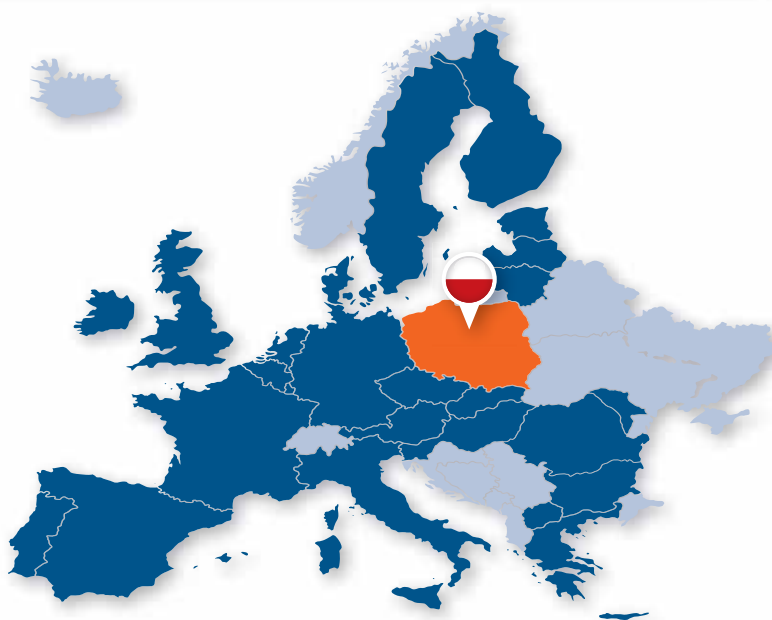
1st Prize:

Olivia Kobińska (7 years)

"Environment is everything around us. It is a place where we live, rest and spend our free time. It is the swans swimming on the sea when

tourists and inhabitants feed them. It is fish living in the Baltic Sea and birds flying in clouds during the sunset. It is the sun which changes

colors during the day and leaves which look the most beautiful in autumn."



2nd Prize:
Bruno Freund (12 years)

“Environment which surrounds me is located near the Baltic Sea. There is commerce very well developed. Sea views are beautiful but sometimes frightening. The best thing to live near the sea is sailing. My hometown Gdynia is Polish capital city of sailing. Children start their adventure with sailing on very small boats “Optimist”. People live there from fishing and tourism. Fishing is very important here in Gdynia. Tourism gives lots of benefits to our region. Beaches are not very big but people like resting there and swimming in the Baltic Sea. That is all what I would like to tell you.”



3rd Prize:
Agata Gustek (11 years)

“Gdynia is a wonderful city. There are lots of unusual, charming places like the beach where we can hear sea’s hum and white seagulls’ shout. There are lots of secrets – the region of Kamienna Góra (Stone Mountain). I go there for a long, autumn walk. Gdynian coat of arms – fish pierced of a sword – shows that work of local people was a constantly battle with ferocious element of the sea.”



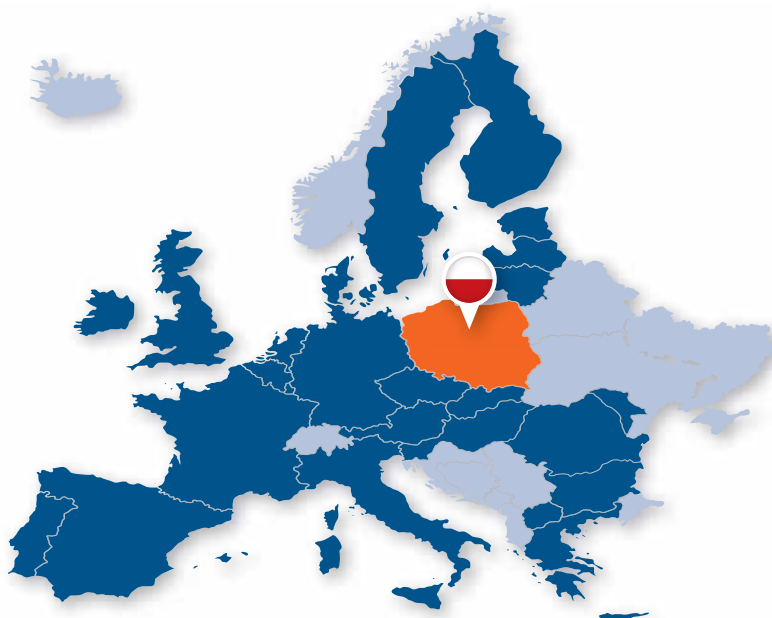
1st Prize:

Paweł Wiciński (6 years)

„Environment is my village where I live. It is my house and everything that is nearby, the garden with beautiful flowers, the meadow with

the cows eating the grass. There is also the windmill made of wood. Near the windmill is a post and there is a stork's nest at the top of it.

There are beautiful fields all around my home. I can eat fresh vegetables and fruit and I can breathe fresh air.”



2nd Prize:
Olga Chlebosz
 (10 years)

“My house is near the lake. I can swim and sunbathe in summertime. I can also watch and listen to the frogs in the evenings. When the weather is nice there are some boats in the lake. I can see some fishermen. There are fields and meadows around the lake. In winter when is snow and ice on the lake, I and my friends go to skate and play with snowballs.”



3rd Prize:
Marta Prowadzisz
 (8 years)

“Near my house there is a beautiful forest with lot of trees: old oaks and maples. I like going to the forest with my family. We can meet wild animals: squirrels, deers, foxes and hares. There are lot of birds flying among the trees or sitting in their nests. I and my family often go to the forest. We pick up wild mushrooms and blueberries which taste delicious.”



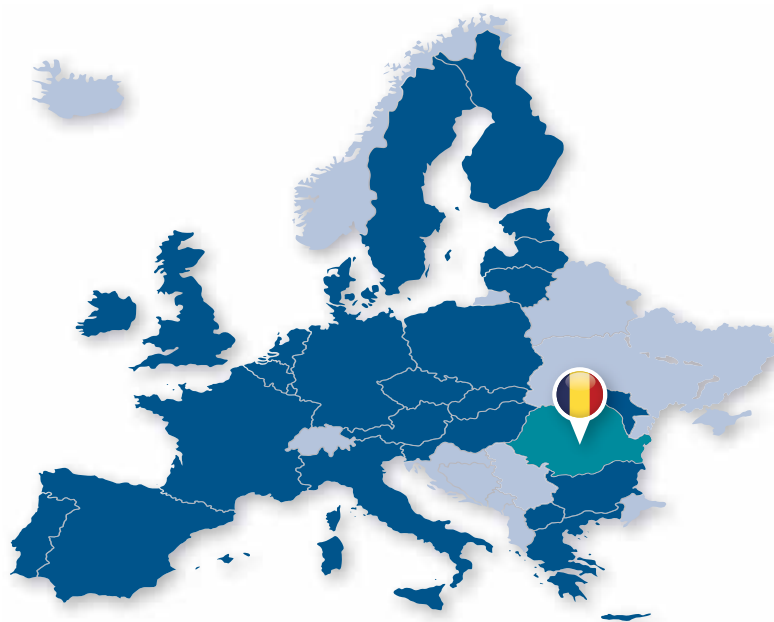
1st Prize:

Constantin Stângaciu (12 years)

"Vulcana-Băi village is a piece of heaven, a wonderful creation of God. It is the place that defines me as a person in the heart of nature. Vulcana-Băi has many beautiful and lovely places, hearty people,

hardworking and skilled. It is a real oasis of tranquility surrounded by hills and forests. Here we can find several religions located in the International Ecumenical Centre. All these wonderful places where I live,

I represent ED them in my drawings. It's so quiet, so peaceful, and so beautiful! It's Vulcana-Băi! You must see the greatness of those places. Vulcana-Băi is waiting for you!"



2nd Prize:
Antonia-Ștefania Stoian
 (6 years)

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"If we learn to put all the trash where it belongs, that's mean in the dumpster, the nature will be cleaner, happier and friendlier. We'll be healthier and we'll enjoy the trees, the flowers, and all the butterflies. We'll be at home. Me, Antonia, I am 6 years old and, supported by my parents I pick up paper and bottles to recycle them. I guess that, my region will be, not only beautiful but cleaner. Come on all to do the same!"



3rd Prize:
Constantin Petrescu
 (12 years)

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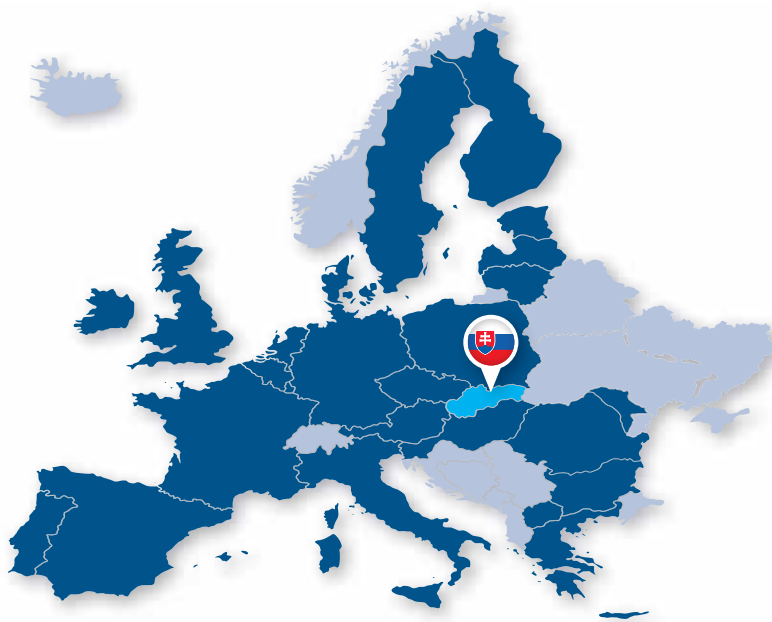
"I was inspired by the environment around me and I drew the hills where I live in. I draw a horse and a dog, my favorite pets. Living in the country side I also painted my yard with yellow flowers, inspired by the autumn. The winding gravel road in the middle of my drawing is covered by a blue sky in the daylight. The atmosphere is so quiet that invite you to create more and more. The environment where I live is clean and green, animated by many cute pets. I like to live in this space where I am, surrounded by all nature faces in every season."



1st Prize:
Eva Tomková
(11 years)

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"I live in the town of Prešov at the neighbourhood Sekčov. There are not enough trees. Every day I walk my little dog. I always have with me a plastic bag, just in case he would poo. This way I protect the environment, because I love my town!"



2nd Prize:
Aneta Králová
(11 years)

“We are a big family. I have two siblings Matej and Soňa, my mum Anka and my dad Vladimír. We also have a turtle IZZY at home. I like to play with her. It is needed to change her water frequently, because we want her to have a good life with us. Also animals and people too must live in the clean and healthy environment!”



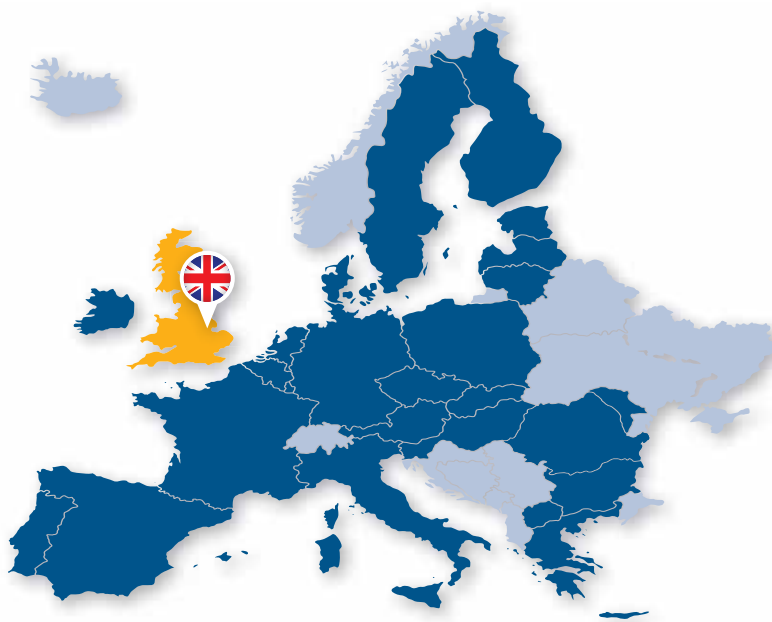
3rd Prize:
Natália Kačmárová
(11 years)

“I like to go for walks. I like the “ instead of autumn, because the leaves, which fall down on the ground are colourful. And because the autumn brings me back my memories. Our town is beautiful in the autumn.”



1st Prize:
Holly Smith
(10 years)

“Chertsey is a small town but living there is great fun as there are loads of things to see and do. I see many people around playing in the parks, having picnics, flying kites and cycling. We all enjoy meeting each-other in certain places. I know my town really well.”



2nd Prize:
Eleanor Burton
 (10 years)

“I live in Lyne, a beautiful and peaceful place to live. In summer we have a wonderful village fair full of interesting stalls, games and live stock. I love going for bike rides and Lyne has a great park. My favourite times are spent on my boat on the river Thames. I love where I live it is a great place to be.”



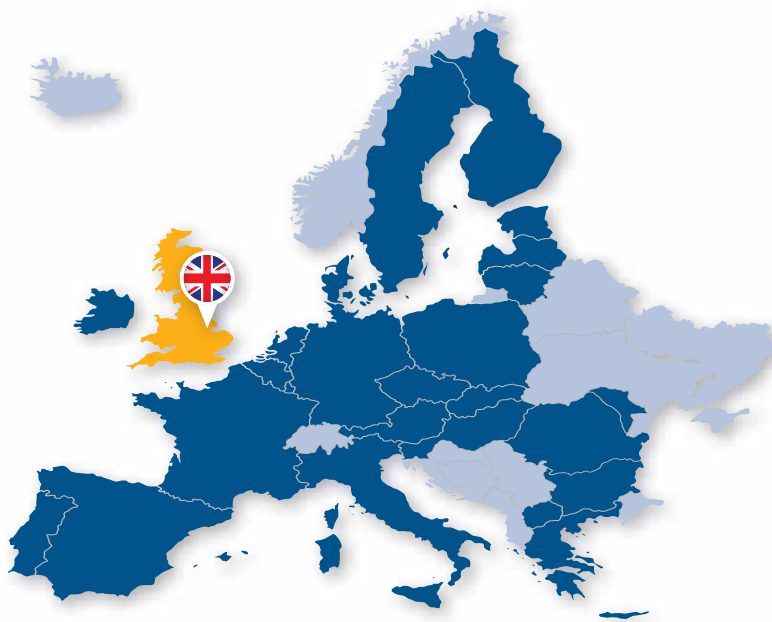
3rd Prize:
Isabel Woods
 (10 years)

“I live in Staines, a large town on the outskirts of London. I love where I live because it is peaceful, leafy and there are many beautiful gardens. In the spring and summer I enjoy picnics in the park, cycling and playing games in the park. In autumn the trees are amazing and we celebrate bonfire night with colourful fireworks. In winter we have snowball fights, build snowmen and we drink hot chocolate. Staines is a great place to be a child. ”



1st Prize:
Liam Hainey (11 years)

"This is my quite place where I go to think. I will always look after this place because is fun to play here among the trees and hide in the bushes"



2nd Prize:
Caitlin Kelly
(9 years)

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"Carman Hill is a place for fun. I and my friends go there for walks. The scenery is wonderful and there's lot of things to do in the open air. I love to play with the cows and play hides and seek."



3rd Prize:
Ceire – Louise Ramage
(10 years)

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"This is the big park in Renton where I go to meet my friends. It's important not to litter there because it makes it messy and untidy. I like being outdoors in Mother Nature's house."

Exhibitions of the best drawings in the Committee of the Regions

November 29 – December 14, 2012 Bruxelles, Belgium



The exhibition, in the Committee of the Regions, celebrated the children's contribution to the role environment plays in our lives. Children's drawings have elaborated the understanding about environment through art.

The exhibition featured 48 best drawings from eight member states of the European Union. The art works have been drawn by children between ages 6 and 12.

The exhibition has been organized by the European Alliance (EA) group with the support of EA members and the Committee of the Regions.



For more information
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EUROPEAN UNION



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